**Air Services between New Delhi and Visakhapatnam and Tirupati**

959. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a pressing demand for a direct air service between New Delhi and Visakhapatnam and New Delhi and Tirupati; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to introduce these new services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A few requests to operate direct air services between New Delhi and Visakhapatnam and New Delhi and Tirupati have been received.

(b) Due to paucity of aircraft it is not possible for Indian Airlines to introduce direct air service between New Delhi and Visakhapatnam. Further, Tirupati airfield is not capable of accepting B-737 aircraft. However, convenient connection via Hyderabad exists for passengers desirous of travelling from New Delhi—Visakhapatnam and Tirupati.

**Application for Land on Lease at Visakhapatnam**

960. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether several export-oriented firms have applied for land on lease at the Visakhapatnam port; and

(b) If so, the number of pending applications and the reasons for delay in giving the land on lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Forty five applications have been received by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust from export-oriented firms requesting for land on lease. The Port Trust after scrutiny have recommended allotment of land to nine applicants and they are under consideration of Government.

**Preservation/Protection of Cultual Sites Monuments**

961. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stressed the need to preserve, protect and promote cultural sites and monuments in the country,

(b) whether the Centre has directed the State Governments to take acion accordingly;

(c) the assistance Government propose to provide to each State to preserve protect and promote cultural sites and monuments during the current plan period; and

(d) what further efforts Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The Government policy is to preserve, protect and promote cultural sites and monuments in the country through the respective Departments of Archaeology of Central and State Governments. The responsibility in respect of those declared to be of national importance is of Central Government, while for others the respective States are concerned.

(c) and (d) Archaeological Survey of India has no scheme to provide financial assistance to State Governments. However, the Central Government is allocating funds to various State Governments for this purpose under the plan. Protection and preservation of the cultural sites and monuments is a continuous process.